

**Town of Felton
Town Council Meeting
January 8, 2018
6:30 pm**

Vice-Mayor Yapsuga called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, January 8, 2018. Present at the meeting were:

Council Members: Vice Mayor Joe Yapsuga, Joanne Clendaniel, Anthony Carroll & Diana Dolan-Beulah.

Staff: Town Manager Rebecca Greene, Chief Levi Brown and Town Clerk Amy Thomas.

Public: Residents - Anita Yapsuga, Patrick & Alana Stewart and Jackie Figart.

Citizens Concerns:

Councilmember Clendaniel asked when the trash will be picked up since it was rescheduled from the weather. Rebecca replied that trash and recycle will be picked up on Wednesday this week then they will be back to their regular schedule next week.

Police Report:

Chief Brown presented the Police Report for December 2017 asking if there were any questions. Rebecca pointed out to Council that on the bottom of the report they will see that for the year 2017 the Officers handled 1721 complaints and that is an increase from past years.

Motion: Councilmember Carroll made a motion to accept the December 2017 Police Report. Councilman Dolan-Beulah seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously

Budget Report:

Rebecca presented the December 2017 Budget Report and asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Clendaniel asked when the Police were getting a new vehicle. Rebecca stated that we owe \$7000 on the chargers and that will be paid in July or August then we will be purchasing a new Tahoe. Rebecca stated that she thought the difference between a four wheel drive and two wheel drive was about \$10,000 but it is only a \$3,000 difference so we will be purchasing a four wheel drive Tahoe. Chief Brown and Sergeant Thomas will discuss who will be getting the new vehicle. There is also grant money that we received for the equipment for the new vehicle.

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion to accept the December 2017 Budget Report. Councilmember Dolan-Beulah seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes:**Town Council Meeting Minutes:**

Vice-Mayor Yapsuga presented the December 8, 2017 Town Council Meeting Minutes asking if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Motion: Councilmember Clendaniel made a motion to accept the December 8, 2017 Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning Meeting Minutes:

Rebecca stated the meeting was canceled due to the inclement weather and could not be rescheduled. Five Planning and Zoning members came in to review and sign the application and now it is going directly to Council for approval. Blue Hen Homes is building a 1768 sq. ft. two story single family dwelling at 425 W High Street.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the permit application for 425 W High Street since the request falls within the planning and zoning ordinance. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Roll call was taken: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga – yes; Councilmember Carroll – yes; Councilmember Clendaniel –yes and Councilman Dolan-Beulah-yes.

Water Leak- 209 Mayor Lane:

Rebecca explained the Stewarts purchased their home and received their first water bill and their usage was about 30,000 gallons but we didn't know if that was high for them since it was their first quarter living in the home. This past quarter we noticed their usage was 108,000 gallons so Josh went to their house to let them know they had a leak and they discovered it was their water softener. They turned the water softener off as soon as they discovered that was the problem. We estimated they use 12,000 gallons of water per quarter and they would like to abate the 96,000 gallons of water.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the abatement at 209 Mayor Lane. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Roll call was taken: Vice-Mayor Yapsuga – yes; Councilmember Carroll – yes; Councilmember Clendaniel –yes and Councilman Dolan-Beulah-yes.

Chickens – 209 Mayor Lane:

Rebecca stated that she received a petition from the residents at 209 Mayor Lane with 55 signatures regarding chickens they have in their backyard. Rebecca read the petition to Council (see attached). Mrs. Figart explained that she lives two houses down from the Stewarts and she has

no problem with them having chickens in their backyard. She feels like they keep the coop very clean and enjoys watching the chickens from her yard.

Councilmember Clendaniel stated that her only concern is if we allow the Stewarts to keep their chickens this could possibly start something and then people will want horses, goats and donkeys. There are people around here that can't even take care of their dogs, cats and even their homes and to allow them to add chickens to their yard could be more of a mess. Mrs. Figart said that she totally understands but she recommends with a new ordinance the Town can prohibit donkeys, horses and goats in the Town but allow chickens. Also, it could be required to have a six foot fence if you have chickens and that is costly so some residents may get discouraged and not get the chickens.

Councilmember Clendaniel explained that there is so much more that goes into the Town changing a ordinance. Rebecca stated it could take anywhere from 60 days to six months to change an ordinance and we would have to contact the Attorney and have public meetings.

Mrs. Stewart stated chickens are similar to dogs in such ways that they leave the same amount of waste and they are not as loud unless they have a rooster. She keeps her yard very clean and maintained and has no complaints from the neighbors with the chickens smelling or making noises. Councilman Dolan-Beulah stated that her only concern is that Mrs. Stewart may take care of her chickens really well and her yard but it doesn't necessarily mean that other residents would do the same thing.

Rebecca stated that she would recommend that we give her a 90 day window to keep the chickens. In the meantime I will contact other Municipalities to see what their ordinances are regarding chickens. We could also put a survey on facebook and see how the residents feel about chickens in Town and possibly post something in the next newsletter. Councilmember Clendaniel asked if Rebecca could also contact the Attorney and she replied yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Motion: Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Clendaniel seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

These minutes were prepared by Amy Thomas, Town Clerk.

Amy Thomas, Town Clerk

Date